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Sen. George announces local Governor's Service Awards finalists

LANSING – Three local organizations have been selected as finalists for the 2005 Governor's Service Awards, announced Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

The Tuesday Toolmen of Kalamazoo were nominated for the Exemplary Community Service Program Award. They are a group of 11 dedicated volunteers who use their skills to address home safety issues for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Their skills allow many low-income seniors and disabled people to remain safely in their homes.

The Kalamazoo Kings Baseball Club was nominated for the Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Award. Since its inception, players and staff of the Kalamazoo Kings Baseball Club have given back to the community. Along with many other volunteer activities, the Kings players and staff have volunteered in more than 250 classrooms, visited area hospitals and given time to many local nonprofits.

Fairfield Broadcasting Company of Kalamazoo was nominated for the Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Award. They have been committed to promoting and supporting the community since opening in 1972. Their Tsunami Relief Radiothon raised \$58,000 for the local chapter of the American Red Cross. They have sponsored an annual benefit dinner for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kalamazoo, raised more than \$107,000 for Loaves and Fishes, produced public service announcements for arts organizations and supported the Kalamazoo Public Schools WKDS-FM, one of only nine student operated radio stations in Michigan.

All three organizations were selected from more than 260 individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations from across the state that were nominated for the awards

“The members of these organizations have given greatly of themselves to improve the quality of life for individuals in their communities,” George said. “They are to be commended for their volunteerism and these awards are just a small way to thank them.”

They will be honored at the Governor's Service Awards dinner on Saturday, June 18, 2005.

The awards are organized by the Michigan Community Service Commission, a state agency that builds a culture of service to strengthen communities through volunteerism. The MCSC supports and manages programs such as Mentor Michigan, AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, Michigan Volunteer Investment Grants, Michigan Citizen Corps, and Governor's Service Awards.

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